Amendments To The Claims:

1. (**Previously Presented**) An intraluminal stent comprising:

a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along the axis of said stent, each of said hoops defined by a single continuous filament that defines a helical arrangement of elements defined by a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, and

at least one connecting member between a first hoop and an adjacent hoop adapted to prevent relative axial movement between the first hoop and the adjacent hoop, the connecting member comprising at least a portion of a first strut in one hoop connected to at least a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop, wherein the connecting member comprises one of:

(a) a direct connection between a linear portion of the first strut that lies side by side with a linear portion of the second strut, or

(b) a separate bridging member having a first portion welded to the first strut and a second portion welded to the second strut.

2. (**Original**) The stent of claim 1, wherein at least one apex section comprises two struts attached thereto and one strut is longer than the other strut.

3. (**Withdrawn**) The stent of claim 1, wherein at least one apex section comprises an included angle and the included angles are generally uniform except for selected apex sections having non-uniform included angles to enable said portion of said first strut to align with said portion of said second strut.

4. (**Original**) The stent of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of connecting members uniformly distributed along the stent according to a predetermined helical spacing.

5. (**Previously Presented**) An intraluminal stent comprising:

a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along the axis of said stent, each of said hoops comprising a helical arrangement of elements defined by a

successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, and

at least one connecting member between a first hoop and an adjacent hoop adapted to prevent relative axial movement between the first hoop and the adjacent hoop, the connecting member comprising at least a portion of a first strut in one hoop connected to at least a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop, wherein the connecting member comprises one of:

(a) a direct connection between a linear portion of the first strut that lies side by side with a linear portion of the second strut, or

(b) a separate bridging member having a first portion welded to the first strut and a second portion welded to the second strut

said stent further comprising a plurality of connecting members uniformly distributed along the stent according to a helical spacing of once approximately every 450 degrees.

6. (**Previously Presented**) An intraluminal stent comprising:

a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along the axis of said stent, each of said hoops comprising a helical arrangement of elements defined by a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions wherein each element comprises an axial length and the axial lengths of the plurality of elements are generally uniform except for selected elements comprising one or both ends of said stent, and

at least one connecting member between a first hoop and an adjacent hoop adapted to prevent relative axial movement between the first hoop and the adjacent hoop, the connecting member comprising at least a portion of a first strut in one hoop connected to at least a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop, wherein the connecting member comprises one of:

(a) a direct connection between a linear portion of the first strut that lies side by side with a linear portion of the second strut, or

(b) a separate bridging member having a first portion welded to the first strut and a second portion welded to the second strut.

7. (**Original**) The stent of claim 6, wherein said end elements define a plane perpendicular to the axis of said stent.

8. (**Previously Presented**) An intraluminal stent comprising;

a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along the axis of said stent, each of said hoops comprising a helical arrangement of elements defined by a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, and

at least one connecting member between a first hoop and an adjacent hoop adapted to prevent relative axial movement between the first hoop and the adjacent hoop, the connecting member comprising at least a portion of a first strut in one hoop connected to at least a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop, wherein the connecting member comprises one of:

(a) a direct connection between a linear portion of the first strut that lies side by side with a linear portion of the second strut, or

(b) a separate bridging member having a first portion welded to the first strut and a second portion welded to the second strut,

said stent further comprising an end hoop disposed at each end of said stent in which apex sections that point outwardly from said stent lie in a common plane perpendicular to the axis of said stent.

9. (**Currently Amended**) The stent of claim 8, the end hoop comprising a plurality of substantially straight struts connected by the apex sections, wherein the ~~elements~~ struts of said end hoop have progressively shorter axial length leading to an end strut or adjacent apex sections have progressively shorter amplitudes leading to an end strut.

10. (**Original**) The stent of claim 8, wherein the struts between apex sections of said end hoop progressively further overlap struts of an adjacent hoop leading to an end strut.

11. (**Original**) The stent of claim 10, wherein the end hoops each comprise an end strut that is aligned adjacent to and connected to another strut of said end hoop.

12. (**Original**) The stent of claim 11, wherein said end strut is connected to said another strut with a weld having a first weld length and said connecting members in said hoops that are not end hoops comprise a weld having a second weld length that is less than said first weld length.

13. (**Original**) The stent of claim 12, wherein the end strut terminates short of said common plane perpendicular to the axis of the stent on which lie said end hoop apex sections that point outwardly from said stent.

14. (**Previously Presented**) An intraluminal stent comprising a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along an axis of the stent, each hoop comprising a helical arrangement of a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, wherein at least one apex section comprises two struts attached thereto with one strut longer than the other strut, in which for each apex section comprising one strut longer than the other, the two struts lie on a cylindrical surface having a common radius relative to a longitudinal axis of the stent, adjacent circumferential hoops being engaged by at least one connector, a first end of the at least one connector being parallel to and extending from a substantially straight strut of a first circumferential hoop and a second end of the at least one connector being parallel to and extending from a substantially straight strut of a second circumferential hoop.

15. (**Cancelled**)

16. (**Previously Presented**) The stent of claim 14, wherein said connecting members are parallel to and extend from said longer struts.

17. (**Cancelled**)

18. (**Previously Presented**) The stent of claim 14, wherein an elongated strut of a first hoop lies adjacent to an elongated hoop of an adjacent hoop for at least some axial distance to permit

connection therebetween.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The stent of claim 14, wherein the connecting member comprises a direct connection between a linear portion of the first strut that lies side by side with a linear portion of the second strut.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The stent of claim 14, wherein the connecting member comprises a separate bridging member having a first portion welded to the first strut and a second portion welded to the second strut.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The stent of claim 14, wherein at least one apex section comprises an included angle, the apex sections arranged in a pattern in which the included angles are generally uniform except for selected apex sections having non-uniform included angles to enable said portion of said first strut to align with said portion of said second strut.

22. **(Previously Presented)** An intraluminal stent comprising:

a helical arrangement of elements defined by a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, wherein at least one apex section comprises two struts attached thereto with one strut longer than the other strut, in which for each apex section comprising one strut longer than the other, the two struts lie on a cylindrical surface having a common radius relative to a longitudinal axis of the stent;

the elements forming a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along an axis of the stent,

at least one connecting member between a first hoop and an adjacent hoop adapted to prevent relative axial movement between the first hoop and the adjacent hoop, the connecting member comprising at least a portion of a first strut in one hoop connected to at least a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop; and

an end hoop disposed at each end of said stent, each end hoop extending all the way around the circumference of the stent, each end hoop defined by a series of substantially

straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions wherein apex sections that point outwardly from said stent lie in a common plane perpendicular to the axis of said stent.

23. (**Previously Presented**) The stent of claim 14 further comprising a plurality of connecting members uniformly distributed along the stent according to a predetermined helical spacing.

24. (**Previously Presented**) An intraluminal stent comprising:

a helical arrangement of elements defined by a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, wherein at least one apex section comprises two struts attached thereto with one strut longer than the other strut, in which for each apex section comprising one strut longer than the other, the two struts lie on a cylindrical surface having a common radius relative to a longitudinal axis of the stent;

a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along an axis of the stent;

at least one connecting member between a first hoop and an adjacent hoop adapted to prevent relative axial movement between the first hoop and the adjacent hoop, the connecting member comprising at least a portion of a first strut in one hoop connected to at least a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop; and

a plurality of connecting members uniformly distributed along the stent according to a helical spacing of once approximately every 450 degrees.

25. (**Withdrawn**) An intraluminal stent comprising at least one circumferential hoop defined by a single continuous filament that defines a helical arrangement of elements defined by a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, at least one apex section comprising an included angle, the apex sections arranged in a pattern in which the included angles are generally uniform except for selected apex sections having non-uniform included angles, the non-uniform apex sections and the generally uniform apex sections all lying on a cylindrical surface having a common radius relative to a longitudinal

axis of the stent.

26. (**Withdrawn**) The stent of claim 25, wherein the elements form a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along an axis of the stent and wherein the non-uniform included angles enable a portion of a first strut in a first hoop to align with a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop.

27. (**Withdrawn**) The stent of claim 25, wherein the non-uniform included angles are uniformly distributed along the stent according to a predetermined helical spacing.

28. (**Cancelled**)

29. (**Previously Presented**) The stent of claim 1, wherein the separate bridging member is parallel to a linear portion of the first strut and to a linear portion of the second strut.

30. (**Previously Presented**) The stent of claim 1, wherein the separate bridging member is attached to a linear portion of the first strut and a linear portion of the second strut.

31. (**Previously Presented**) The stent of claim 1, wherein the separate bridging member connects only two adjacent hoops.

32. (**Previously Presented**) An intraluminal stent comprising:

a plurality of circumferential hoops disposed in a helical succession along the axis of said stent, all of said plurality of circumferential hoops defined by a single continuous filament that defines a helical arrangement of elements defined by a successive series of substantially straight struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions, and

at least one connecting member between a first hoop and an adjacent hoop adapted to prevent relative axial movement between the first hoop and the adjacent hoop, the connecting member comprising at least a portion of a first strut in one hoop connected to at least a portion of a second strut in an adjacent hoop, wherein the connecting member comprises one of:

(a) a direct connection between a linear portion of the first strut that lies side by side with a linear portion of the second strut, or

(b) a separate bridging member having a first portion welded to the first strut and a second portion welded to the second strut.

33. (**Previously Presented**) A tubular stent having a tubular axis, said stent comprising:

a plurality of circumferential hoops linearly disposed in succession along said axis, each of said hoops comprising elements defined by a successive series of struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in opposite axial directions to form a continuous series of similarly-oriented apex sections that point in a first direction, said similarly-oriented apex sections arranged in a helix in which each hoop comprises one 360-degree wrap of said helix,

at least one pair of adjacent hoops being connected to one another by a connecting member, said connecting member connecting a first strut, which is part of one of said connected adjacent hoops, to a second strut, which is part of the other of said adjacent hoops,

wherein axially opposed apex sections of adjacent hoops are axially spaced from one another and said connecting member is a bridging member with a first end aligned with and connected to said first strut and a second end aligned with and connected to said second strut.

34. (**Withdrawn**) A tubular stent having a tubular axis, said stent comprising a plurality of zig-zag members arranged in a helix, said zig-zag members defined by a successive series of struts connected by apex sections alternately pointing in first and second axial directions,

wherein at least a first of said struts of a first set of said apex sections that points in the first axial direction on a first traversal of said helix is connected to at least a second of said struts of a second set of said apex sections that points in the second axial direction on a second traversal of said helix, adjacent said first traversal, and

wherein said first strut and second strut are connected via a connecting member, the connecting member being a non-linear extension of the first strut and the second strut.

35. (**Previously Presented**) The stent of claim 34, wherein not all of the apex sections that point in the first axial direction are connected to apex sections that point in the second axial direction on axially adjacent traversals of said helix.